

Good Morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Human Services committee. I am here today to express concerns about **H.B. 5243 An Act Concerning Sober Homes**.

I was introduced to Recovery Housing in the early 90's. I was told this would be a great place for me to get a new beginning. I was told these houses were structure and that is what I needed.

I applied and was accepted into a recovery house.

When I walked through the door it was like having a breath of fresh air.

There were expectations.

1. I was expected to find employment
2. I was expected to attend support groups
3. I was expected to follow the rules and regulation of the home.
4. The most important expectation was to STAY CLEAN.

By working at CCAR I see a lot of individuals who are seeking Recovery Housing. They need structure and support to build their lives.

Senator there is two parts to this.

1. Treatment
2. Recovery

Recovery is the most important because it's starting all over again. It is a struggle. If we don't see or have support we give up.

We need places such as recovery homes to continue giving us hope.

A recovery home helps us know that we don't never have to live a life of chaos again.

Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS, the Recovery Housing Coalition of CT and the recovery community to accommodate community needs. Thank you.